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INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0203
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 0079
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RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2698
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RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1676
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0507
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RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0227
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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1524
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0103
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RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0071
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1958
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8871
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 6654
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0129
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 0097
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1022
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0113
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 0120
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TOKYO 003171

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FOR EUR/RPM EVA SHINAGEL, EAP/RSP LOUIS ORTIZ, USNATO TOM
UNDERWOOD

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: NATO'S GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: JAPAN UPBEAT BUT URGES
FLEXIBILITY

REF: A. STATE 88312

[1](#)B. TOKYO 798

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: Japan is interested in pursuing closer relations with NATO through the Global Partnership framework, but prefers an incremental approach with participation in seminars or in exercises as observers preceding cooperation in operations. GOJ officials request further clarification on the relationship between the Global Partnership and existing NATO groupings such as the Partnership for Peace. MOFA DG Hirada requested more information on how the process will move forward and through what channels. Noting the political sensitivity of collective self-defense, the Hirada recommended a flexible partnership that could be easily tailored to the situation of each new partner country. END SUMMARY.

One step at a time

¶2. (C) DCM Donovan and UK Minister Hatfull met with MOFA European Affairs DG Hirada on June 8, 2006 to deliver talking points (Ref A) on NATO's Global Partnership initiative. UK Minister Hatfull expressed appreciation for Japanese support for allied efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and asked Japan to consider how it could increase its impact overseas through a strengthened relationship with NATO. DCM Donovan emphasized that we are cognizant of Japan's legal and constitutional constraints and therefore seek to get Japanese input on how best to shape the Global Partnership.

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¶3. (C) DG Hirada stated that Japan's basic position on NATO was articulated by FM Aso during his speech in Brussels in May. While enthusiastic about deepening ties with NATO, Japan prefers a "step-by-step" approach, Hirada said, with participation in seminars and perhaps observer-status participation in exercises first and cooperation in operational areas as a mid to long-term goal. He added that Japan was "positively considering" the invitations it has received to join NATO seminars in Europe in the coming months.

¶4. (C) MOFA European Policy Director Norio Maruyama added that although Japan was interested in regular dialogue with the NAC, it did not want to restrict itself to this channel. Japan hopes to engage all 26 NATO members on relevant issues and to pursue formal as well as informal talks.

Japan seeks more information

¶5. (C) DG Hirada asked for more information on how the new Global Partnership will affect existing frameworks such as the Partnership for Peace, the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. Japan is also seeking a better understanding of the issues that must be resolved before the Riga summit in November and whether the final product at Riga was likely to be general statement, a detailed plan or a written document. Finally, DG Hirada asked for additional clarification on how this process will move forward and what the official channels of consultation will be.

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¶6. (C) DCM Donovan assured DG Hirada that the Global Partnership would not supersede existing frameworks, but would be designed to supplement these groupings. He stressed that this is a formative period for this new initiative and that we are seeking input from our friends, like Japan, in order to create the most effective partnership possible.

Japan urges flexibility

17. (C) DG Hirada and Director Maruyama warned against an overly rigid arrangement, suggesting a more flexible model that could be easily tailored to the particular political sensitivities of the new partners. Noting that collective self-defense was a very sensitive political issue in Japan, DG Hirada hoped the proposal put forward at Riga would not be "one-size-fits-all". DCM Donovan replied that the United States and other NATO members were mindful of the political situation in Japan and sought an appropriate partnership plan. DG Hirada thanked the United States and the United Kingdom for this initiative and asked to continue dialogue.
SCHIEFFER